

// A special meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg, recessed from March 16, was held on the 23rd day of March, 2004, at 1:00 P.M., in the Second Floor Training Room, City Hall, Carl B. Hutcherson, Jr., President, presiding. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a work session regarding several items. The following Members were present:

Present: Adams, Barksdale, Dodson, Foster, Garber, Seiffert, Hutcherson 7

Absent: 0

// City Manager Kimball Payne asked City Council to provide direction regarding the tax rates to advertise in the legal notice for the FY2005 Budget public hearing. After discussion, City Council agreed to include in the legal notice the City Manager's proposed tax increases with the exception of the personal property tax. City Council requested that the personal property tax rate be advertised at \$4.00 instead of \$3.50.

// City Manager Kimball Payne advised that an application had been received asking that the new fountain at the foot of Ninth Street be named "The Langley Fountain" to honor Bruton Langley, the major benefactor for the project. Mr. Payne went on to say that City staff is recommending that the fountain be named "The James River Fountain" to recognize all contributors to the project. Following discussion, and on motion of Vice Mayor Dodson, seconded by Council Member Foster, Council by the following recorded vote agreed that the fountain at the foot of Ninth Street be named "The Langley Fountain":

Ayes: Adams, Barksdale, Dodson, Foster, Garber, Seiffert, Hutcherson 7

Noes: 0

// Administrative and Grants Coordinator Melva Walker advised that the revised worksheets showing the proposed funding allocations for FY2005 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Program projects reflect the final allocation from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Ms. Walker further advised that due to the withdrawal of the funding request by the Alliance for Families and Children, the \$18,500 that the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) had recommended for the Ways to Work Program has been redistributed to the Public Service projects. Council Member Adams stated that at one time the bulk of these funds were primarily used for "hard" or capital goods rather than personnel costs and asked that the Committee give some thought next year to allocating more funding for "hard" or capital goods. Council Member Foster pointed out that these programs benefit the quality of life in our City and that some of these organizations use CDBG funds as "seed" money to seek grant funding. Ms. Walker stated that during next year's process she would inform the Committee of the above request. Following discussion, City Council reached consensus to support the revised recommendations of the CDAC regarding funding allocations for FY2005 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Program projects.

// Information Technology Director Mike Goetz provided an overview regarding the City's Information Technology Strategic Plan. Following discussion, staff agreed to provide City Council with an update in six months.

// Utilities Director Dan Sneed along with Assistant Director of Utilities Tim Mitchell presented information regarding the financial impact the 2004 James River Tributary Strategy would have on the City, i.e., a \$60

million upgrade to the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant in addition to in excess of \$750,000 per year in additional operating expenses. Mr. Mitchell asked that City Council consider adopting a resolution requesting the Commonwealth to defer adoption of the draft 2004 James River Tributary Strategy. Following discussion, and on motion of Council Member Adams, seconded by Vice Mayor Dodson, Council by the following recorded vote adopted Resolution #R-04-034, as presented, requesting that the Commonwealth of Virginia defer adoption of the draft 2004 James River Tributary Strategy:

Ayes: Adams, Barksdale, Dodson, Foster, Garber, Seiffert, Hutcherson 7

Noes: 0

// City Council again considered a proposed amendment to the City Code to require adequate receptacles for waste generated at residential construction sites. Following discussion, City Council asked that the ordinance be further revised to give the Building Commissioner the authority to stop work on a site where trash and litter is not properly handled. City Council also asked that this item be scheduled for public hearing at the June 8 City Council meeting. Council Member Barksdale inquired if reflectors could be required for dumpsters that have to be placed in public rights-of-way to alert drivers at night. City Attorney Walter Erwin stated that the City could require reflectors for those receptacles.

// During roll call, Council Member Barksdale expressed concern regarding recent comments made against the Planning Commission and the Director of Community Planning, and asked that City Council stand behind these individuals in that they were only looking to make the City a better place to live. Council Member Seiffert invited City Council to a June 20 ceremony to rededicate the General Early Monument, mentioned an award the Police Department will be receiving regarding the cleanup of 11th & Taylor Streets and applauded the Code Enforcement Task Force's contribution to this project, and urged everyone to go by the City Cemetery to view the goats that were recently acquired to clear a lot next to the cemetery. Vice Mayor Dodson stated that it was his understanding that the public would be allowed to provide comments at the March 31 work session regarding proposed changes to the sign ordinance. Other Council Members stated that it was their understanding that the work session was for City Council to become familiar with and ask questions regarding the proposed changes and that the public would have a chance to make comments at a public hearing tentatively scheduled for the May 11 meeting. Council also asked that all written comments received by staff be forwarded to them prior to the work session, and that the sign advisory committee be invited to the March 31 work session as a resource to respond to questions.

// City Council held a joint session with the School Board regarding the Schools FY 2005 Budget proposal. School Board Chair Lyle Schweitzer explained that School Board members and staff were available to answer questions regarding the budget proposal. Discussion focused on what the impact would be on the Schools in light of not knowing the amount of funding to be received from the State, in addition to the City Manager's proposed reduction to the Schools request.

// The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Clerk of Council

// A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg was held on the 23rd day of March, 2004, at 5:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Carl B. Hutcherson, Jr., President, presiding. Council Member Garber gave the Invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Hutcherson. The following Members were present:

Present: Adams, Barksdale, Dodson, Foster, Garber, Seiffert, Hutcherson 7

Absent: 0

// Copies of the minutes of the March 9 (two meetings) and March 16, 2004 meetings, having been previously furnished Council, reading was dispensed with, and on motion of Council Member Barksdale, seconded by Council Member Adams, Council by the following recorded vote approved the minutes as presented:

Ayes: Adams, Barksdale, Dodson, Foster, Garber, Seiffert, Hutcherson 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of Human Services - General, Resolution #R-04-026 amending the FY2004 City/Federal/State Aid Projects Fund Budget and appropriating \$29,000, fully reimbursable, for the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, laid over from the March 9, 2004 meeting, was again presented and read, and on motion of Council Member Barksdale, seconded by Council Member Adams, Council by the following recorded vote adopted the Resolution:

Ayes: Adams, Barksdale, Dodson, Foster, Garber, Seiffert, Hutcherson 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of Public Works - Water, Resolution #R-04-029 amending the FY2004 Water Fund Operating Budget and appropriating \$110,000 to initiate a replacement program for 1"-2" water meters, laid over from the March 9, 2004 meeting, was again presented and read, and on motion of Council Member Barksdale, seconded by Council Member Adams, Council by the following recorded vote adopted the Resolution:

Ayes: Adams, Barksdale, Dodson, Foster, Garber, Seiffert, Hutcherson 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of City Code, City Council Report #4 was considered. On motion of Council Member Adams, seconded by Council Member Seiffert, Council by the following recorded vote adopted Ordinance #0-04-035, as presented, amending the City Code by repealing Sections 12-71 through 12-92, relating to the regulation of interurban buses and motor freight carriers:

Ayes: Adams, Barksdale, Dodson, Foster, Garber, Seiffert, Hutcherson 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of City Code/Finance - General, City Council Report #5 was considered. On motion of Vice Mayor Dodson, seconded by Council Member Barksdale, Council by the following recorded vote adopted Ordinance #0-04-036, as presented, amending Section 36-126.6 of the City Code to provide for payment of Business and Professional Licenses (BPOL) in one payment due May 1 of each year:

Ayes: Adams, Barksdale, Dodson, Foster, Garber, Seiffert, Hutcherson 7

Noes: 0

// In the matter of GLTC, Resolution #R-04--031 appropriating \$48,000 to the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company (GLTC) to extend night bus service through June 30, 2004, laid over from the March 9, 2004 meeting, was again presented and read, and on motion of Vice Mayor Dodson, seconded by Council Member Foster, Council by the following recorded vote adopted the Resolution:

Ayes: Barksdale, Dodson, Foster, Seiffert, Hutcherson

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Noes: Adams, Garber

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// The meeting was recessed at 5:12 P.M. to March 30, at 1:00 P.M., to continue budget presentations.

Clerk of Council

// A special meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg, recessed from March 23, was held on the 30th day of March, 2004, at 1:00 P.M., in the Second Floor Training Room, City Hall, Carl B. Hutcherson, Jr., President, presiding. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a work session regarding several items.

The following Members were present:

Present: Adams, Barksdale, Dodson, Foster, Garber, Seiffert, Hutcherson

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Absent:

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// Parks and Recreation Director Kay Frazier provided an overview regarding reestablishing a boat ramp on City property at the foot of Seventh Street. Ms. Frazier explained that the City-owned property is currently leased to Griffin Pipe Company for their use as a parking lot and storage area. City Manager Kimball Payne informed City Council that either party can terminate the lease upon sixty days written notice and that the current lease reserves to the City the right to further develop or improve the demised premises for the benefit of the City. Mr. Bob Ingram, Works Manager for Griffin Pipe, expressed concerns regarding the City's plan to reactivate the existing ramp, i.e., liability issues, mixed private/public use, security of the vehicles and materials, and insufficient parking if spaces are dedicated for public use. Ms. Frazier stated that she has met on several occasions with Mr. Ingram regarding his concerns and has recommended that Griffin Pipe build a fence to separate the public from private space. To respond to some of Mr. Ingram's concerns, Council Members suggested limiting the ramp to canoes/boats/kayaks that can be carried on top of a vehicle and not to allow trailers which require more turnaround room and larger parking spaces. City Council also requested that the ramp be designated for boat ingress/egress alone and that loitering and fishing from the banks next to the ramp should be prohibited. City Council asked that staff proceed with plans to reestablish the public boat ramp as outlined above, and to bring those plans back to City Council, including both start-up and ongoing costs, at a future Council meeting. City Council also asked that staff continue to partner with Griffin Pipe in the development of the plans.

// City Manager Kimball Payne along with Fire Chief Buddy Martinette presented information regarding additional increases in the City's ambulance transport rates. Fire Chief Martinette explained that while these proposed increases are of considerable magnitude, a significant increase in the City's rates is necessary before the Medicare "Blended Fee" Schedule reaches its final level on January 1, 2006. Mr. Payne noted that these increases would generate \$600,000 in additional revenue. City Council agreed to add these increases to the list of revenue sources for discussion during the budget process.

// City Council continued with individual budget presentations from the Commonwealth Attorney, Sheriff, Fleet Services, and Airport. Staff reviewed briefly the budgets for Non-Departmental, City/Federal/State Aid Fund, and Civic, Community and Regional Organizations. During the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company (GLTC) budget presentation, General Manager Mike Carroll outlined some options that the GLTC Board will be considering in lieu of eliminating night bus service. City Council briefly reviewed the FY2005-2009 Capital Improvements Plan.

// In preparation for finalizing the budget, City Council asked that staff contact the Virginia Retirement System to get an update on the numbers and determine whether the City can opt out of continued participation in the supplement to public safety retirees.

// The meeting was recessed at 4:18 p.m. to March 31, at 1:00 p.m., to conduct a work session regarding proposed changes to the City's sign ordinance.

Clerk of Council

// A special meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg, recessed from March 30, was held on the 31st day of March, 2004, at 1:00 P.M., in the Second Floor Training Room, City Hall, Carl B. Hutcherson, Jr., President, presiding. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a work session regarding proposed changes to the City's sign ordinance. The following Members were present:

Present: Adams, Barksdale, Dodson, Foster, Garber, Seiffert, Hutcherson

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Absent:

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// At the beginning of the work session, City Manager Kimball Payne provided an overview regarding the history leading up to the proposed changes to the City's sign ordinance. Mr. Payne explained that in July 2002, City Council directed staff to draft changes to the City's sign ordinance to improve the appearance and aesthetics of the City, and that following a lengthy comprehensive plan development process with considerable citizen input about issues of design and appearance, City Council adopted the Comprehensive Plan which included a recommendation to limit the size and height of new on-site commercial signs. Mr. Payne went on to say that the purpose of today's work session is to give City Council its first chance to examine the proposed sign ordinance in any detail and then distributed a list of issues identified by staff regarding both the existing and the proposed sign ordinance. Community Planning Director Rachel Flynn and Gary Case, a member of the Sign Committee, were present to respond to questions regarding the proposed changes. City Council reviewed and discussed in detail all proposed changes and determined that more clarity was needed in several areas. Some Council Members suggested better enforcement of the current sign ordinance. During the discussion regarding flags, Ms. Flynn stated that all references to the U. S. and Virginia flags would be removed from the proposed changes. In response to Council questioning, Mr. Payne stated that the City would adhere to whatever sign ordinance is adopted by City Council. During the discussion regarding main entry signage for subdivisions, City Council agreed to increase the square footage from 32 to 40 square feet and increase the height from 7 to 8 feet. City Council also expressed an interest in discussing further whether or not to allow balloons and pennants on a temporary basis. Following discussion, City Council agreed that further work was needed on the proposed sign ordinance prior to conducting the public hearing, and agreed to schedule another work session on April 21 at 2:00 p.m.

// The meeting was recessed at 4:25 p.m. to April 6, at 7:00 p.m., Heritage High School, to conduct public hearings regarding the proposed tax increases, the FY2005 Proposed Budget and the 2005-2009 Capital Improvements Plan.

Clerk of Council